



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

Nicholas Marritz
MudRock News DEPT MR73243
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144
73243-05758978@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Request No. **DOC-NOAA-2019-001674**

Dear Nicholas Marritz,

This letter is in response to your **amended** Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request entered into our tracking system, FOIAonline, 09/3/2019. Your request asked for records pertaining to:

- “1. Please produce all records related to the creation and development of NWS's mascot, Owlie Skywarn. This would include records related to NWS's decision to create a mascot in the first place.**
- 2. If NWS contracted with a third party to create or develop the Owlie Skywarn mascot (or materials featuring Owlie Skywarn), please produce all related records, including contracts, progress reports, mockups, sample designs, drafts, and presentations.**
- 3. Please produce records sufficient to identify all NWS guidelines regarding how the Owlie Skywarn costume or character may be used, displayed, or reproduced. If these guidelines have changed over time, please produce the past versions as well as the current version. This request includes all guidelines related to the use of Owlie Skywarn's social-media accounts, but I am not requesting the accounts themselves (e.g., there is no need to send me every Tweet, Facebook, or Instagram post ever posted to an Owlie-Skywarn-related account).**
- 4. Please produce records sufficient to identify all of the ways in which NWS currently uses the Owlie Skywarn costume or character.**
- 5. Please produce all records relating to any inquiries made by Congress, by any Congressional committee or subcommittee (including the U.S. Senate's Federal Financial Management subcommittee), or by any member of Congress, related to NOAA or NWS's use of mascots in general or Owlie Skywarn in particular. Please include any records produced by NOAA or NWS in**



response to such an inquiry. One such inquiry may have occurred in 2007:
<https://oklahoman.com/article/3083453/oklahoma-senator-criticizes-government-mascots>

6. Please produce records sufficient to identify how much money NOAA/NWS has spent on Owlle-Skywarn-related activities during each of the last five years.”

NOAA determined that the cost for searching for responsive documents will exceed **\$25.00**. As required by the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR); 15 CFR Part 4.11(e), we are providing you with a fee estimate. The fee estimate is determined by the uniform fee schedule published in 15 CFR Part 4.11(c) (i). You meet the definition of requesters categorized as “Other.”

We estimate that the cost to search for and review responsive records will be approximately **\$17,248.00**. This estimate is based on approximately (308) hours of search time. This estimate does not include the cost of formatting or reproducing records because, until the initial search is complete, we have no way to estimate how many records, if any, would need to be copied.

15 CFR 4.11(i) (2), requires that you pay the estimated fee prior to receiving requested records. Please make your check or money order payable to the **Treasury of the United States**, and mail it to:

**NOAA Public Reference Facility (SOU 10000),
1315 East West Highway (SSMC3), Room 9719,
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

In compliance with FOIA regulations, the 20-business-day time frame for completing your FOIA request stops until payment is received. When your payment is received, we will continue to process your request. If payment or other communication is not received within 30 calendar days from **8/13/2019**, your FOIA request will be closed.

You may reduce this fee estimate by narrowing the scope of your request. If you wish to do that, please contact me. Please be aware that not all responsive documents are necessarily releasable under the FOIA. If you have any questions about your request or NOAA’s FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact me at rashada.jenkins@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Rashada Jenkins
FOIA Liaison, National Weather Service

